



December 2001

Important Health Benefits News for Benefits Administrators

Upcoming Events

DEC

Dec. 17 ♦ Employee Annual Report published online with limited supplies to state agencies

Dec. 31 ♦ Last day a Medicare retiree may submit an enrollment form to add dependents without a qualifying mid-year event

JAN

Jan. 1 ♦ Happy New Year and Welcome 2002!

Jan. 1 ♦ New Medicare retiree premiums go into effect

Jan. 9 ♦ General Assembly convenes for 8-week session

Jan. 12 ♦ Governor-elect inaugurated

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B.A. Bulletin



Long Term Care Open Enrollment Set for Next Spring

A second Open Enrollment for long-term care insurance will be held from April through June of 2002. As of April, part-time classified employees also will be eligible to participate in the long-term care program offered by the Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM) through Aetna U.S. Healthcare.

During the Open Enrollment period, full-time and part-time classified state employees will be able to purchase long-term care insurance without providing proof of good health. At other times during the year, eligible full-time employees, retirees and certain family members may routinely purchase long-term care insurance but must submit a medical questionnaire and be approved by Aetna for coverage.

Status of Health Insurance Manual

We hope to have the new Health Insurance Manual available for Benefits Administrators after the first of the year. The manual is nearing completion and release to the printer is expected soon. Additional information will be provided when the manual is completed and ready for distribution.

Quick References Now On the Web!

Information on Enrolling and Making Changes may now be found on the DHRM Web site by visiting the Health Benefits front page. Encourage your agency's employees to check out the quick references at www.dhrm.state.va.us/hbenefit.htm.

Two Carriers To Exit State Program

CIGNA HealthCare of Virginia, Inc. and Optimum Choice, Inc. have decided not to participate in the State Health Benefits Program beginning on July 1, 2002.

As a result, several HMO and POS plans will no longer be available to state employees. These include the CIGNA HMO plan which currently serves Central and Eastern Virginia, and the Optimum Choice Standard Option HMO, Standard Option POS and High Option POS plans, which now serve most of Virginia.

Spotlight Online Special Report Published

A special online edition of Spotlight features a special report on the impact of rising health care costs on the State Health Benefits Program. Employees may also obtain additional financial information on the program by accessing the 2001 Annual Report. Both the online publication and the Annual Report may be downloaded and printed from the DHRM Web site.

Flex Open Enrollment

As of December 7, 2001:

A total of 5,119 accounts were processed during Fall Annual Flex Enrollment, up 13.5% from the number last year. Of total Flex transactions, 26% were done through EmployeeDirect.